

Appln No. 10/728,985
Amdt. Dated May 1, 2006
Response to Office Action of March 20, 2006

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REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In response to the Examiner's further Office Action of March 20, 2006 in the present RCE application the Applicant respectfully submits the accompanying Amendment to the claims and the below Remarks directed thereto.

Regarding Amendment

In the Amendment:

independent claim 1 is amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter of pending claim 20;

dependent claims 3, 7, 9-12 and 14-18 are amended to conform with amended claim 1;

dependent claims 4 and 20 are cancelled; and

dependent claims 2, 5, 6, 8, 13 and 19 are unchanged.

It is respectfully submitted that the above amendment does not add new matter to the present application.

Regarding Allowable Subject Matter

The Applicant appreciates the Examiner's indication of the allowability of the subject matter of pending claims 7-12, 15-17 and 20 under the conditions stated in the Office Action.

Regarding 35 USC 103(a) Rejections

The Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the rejections of claims 1-6, 13, 14, 18 and 19 over Yoshihara in view of Cordes, based on the above-described amendment to independent claim 1 to incorporate the allowable subject matter of claim 20 and for the reasons given by the Examiner in the Allowable Subject Matter section of the Office Action.

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It is respectfully submitted that all of the Examiner's rejections have been traversed. Accordingly, it is submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance and reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested.

Very respectfully,

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